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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities at the Wittstock and Letzling Heath Training Grounds  
and at the Magdeburg Post 25X1

EVALUATION  PLACE OBTAINED  25X1

DATE OF CONTENT  25X1

DATE OBTAINED  DATE PREPARED 14 June 1955 25X1

REFERENCES  25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  25X1

REMARKS  25X1

This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

1. On 24 April 1955, it was learned from a Soviet paymaster from Ludwigslust that, during the exercises in late March, a contagious disease broke out in Camp Schweinrich. The units stationed in the camp were placed under quarantine. The troops were transferred to a summer camp in the southern portion of Letzling Heath instead of to Camp Schweinrich, which may not be occupied during the summer months. 25X1
2. Between 8 and 14 May, no troops and vehicles were seen at, and nor reports were heard from, the Wittstock training grounds. On 12 May, it was learned that numerous barracks buildings in Camp Schweinrich had been dismantled and shipped away by Soviet troops in late April. It was rumored that the training ground was turned over to the KVP. 25X1
3. Camp Schweinrich at the Wittstock training grounds was no longer subordinated to the Perleberg post. About 10 May, it was announced that Ernst was in charge of the administration of the camp. It was learned that the camp had been vacant prior to 11 May. On 11 May, a small guard detail had arrived from Perleberg. The training ground was allegedly to be used by air force units.<sup>1</sup>
4. It was learned that the units from the Perleberg post were allegedly not to return to the post upon completion of their training in the Letzling Heath. The officers of the Perleberg units could not leave the summer camp prior to 13 May, since large-scale exercises were held there. 2
5. On 11 May, the following observations were made in the Letzling Heath: Waldlager I and III (Born) were being occupied by 10,000 to 15,000 troops during the preceding days. Soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with artillery insignia, blue-bordered black epaulets including some with signal insignia and black-bordered red epaulets were seen in the 25X1  
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vicinity of the camps. Some 200 to 300 vehicles of various types were seen at the parking lots. The Born-Huetten road was blocked by a guarded barrier.

Waldlager II south of Huetten was occupied by 2,000 to 3,000 soldiers. Many vehicles of various types were seen at the parking lots and tanks were seen under numerous lean-to roofs. Intensive vehicular traffic was observed on the Born-Haldensleben road.

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The Waldlager southeast of Jaevenitz appeared to be occupied and was heavily guarded. According to local residents, 2,000 to 3,000 soldiers were stationed there. Fifty to 60 tents and some 100 vehicles were seen at the northern edge of the forest camp. Many soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets including some with tank and artillery insignia were seen walking between Jaevenitz and the camp.

6. The following columns were seen en route toward east on the northern road bridge (Wilhelm Pieck Bruecke) in Magdeburg on 6 and 11 May:

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6 May. At 1730, 28 trucks with pontoons, 5 motorboats, 2 large and 1 small amphibious vehicles, and 4 trucks with soldiers.

11 May. At 1930, some 50 trucks with pontoons, engineer equipment and soldiers, approximately 6 motorboats and 4 large amphibious vehicles. 5

1. Comment. The report supplements previous information on the dismantling of Camp Schweinrich. It is still undetermined, whether the training grounds will be utilized by KVP or air force units.
2. Comment. In spite of the early date (beginning of summer training) and the fact that no other indications are available, the assembling of artillery units of the Third Shock Army and engineer units of this army, GSFG and the Third and Fourth Gds Mecz Armies in the Letzling Heath in early May may indicate that major exercises were conducted.
3. Comment. The motor vehicle are believed to belong to the 20th Army AT Arty Brig, the 18th Mecz Div, the 19th Gds Mecz Div and the Third Shock Army. Of these units, the 18th Mecz Div, the AT Brig and the 136th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army, the transfer of which had been observed in late April and early May, are quite definitely believed to be stationed in the Letzling Heath. Observations at the Magdeburg post failed to indicate whether or not elements of the 19th Gds Mecz Div had already left for a summer camp. The present report does not indicate the distribution of the units in the different Waldlager.
4. Comment. The Waldlager southeast of Jaevenitz had been utilized as summer camp by units of the 207th Mtz Rifle Div in preceding years. Since no definite observations are available from the Stendal and

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Gardelegen posts, it cannot be determined whether the camp was occupied by elements of this division or other units of the Third Shock Army.

5. Comment. According to number of pontoons and the majority of the other engineer equipment, these were units of the 36th Pon Bridge Regt of GSFG which left Magdeburg toward Letzling Heath on 4/5 May and presumably returned from the training area on the Elbe River in the Letzling Heath where other engineer units had simultaneously been assembled.

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